

City of Mount Vernon 2014 Legislative Priorities



Mayor:

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Waterfront Revitalization & Flood Protection Project - Phase 3

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The City of Mount Vernon is a member of the Association of Washington Cities. We agree with the 2014 AWC State Legislative priorities as follows:



Restore liquor revenue sharing

The long history of local/state liquor revenue sharing, a partnership dating back 70+ years, has been severely undermined in recent years. The Legislature must restore the growth in liquor tax revenues to cities in order to help fund public safety and other local impacts associated with liquor use.



Fund new city responsibilities from marijuana taxes

The new marijuana industry is subject to a 75% state excise tax, but none of that funding is directed to local jurisdictions to address public safety needs and other complex local impacts. Share revenues generated by marijuana tax with cities to help offset impacts associated with uses.



Fund transportation needs, including providing new local transportation revenue options

Transportation is critical for our economic vitality. Cities must have the resources to maintain and strengthen both local and state transportation systems.

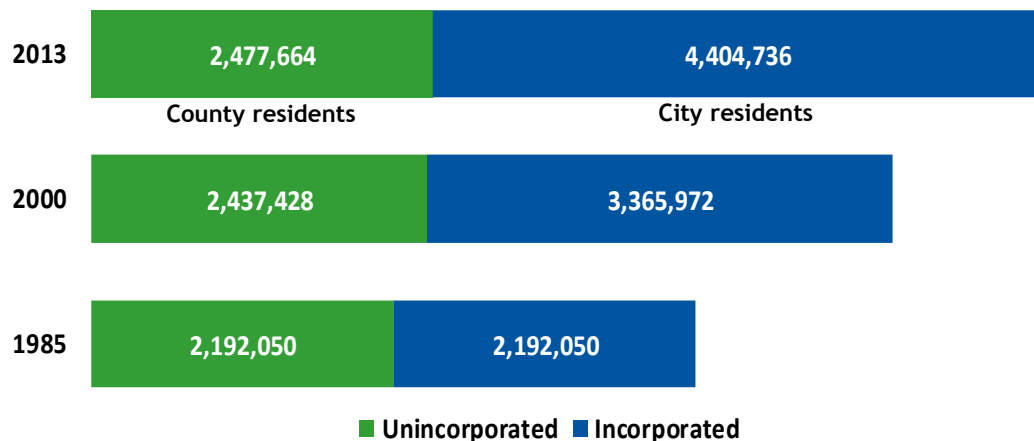


Secure infrastructure funds

Our infrastructure is aging and cities can't keep up with increasing demands. If we are going to keep Washington moving forward, we need the Public Works Trust Fund and other infrastructure programs intact, to allow for planned and sustained investments in communities.



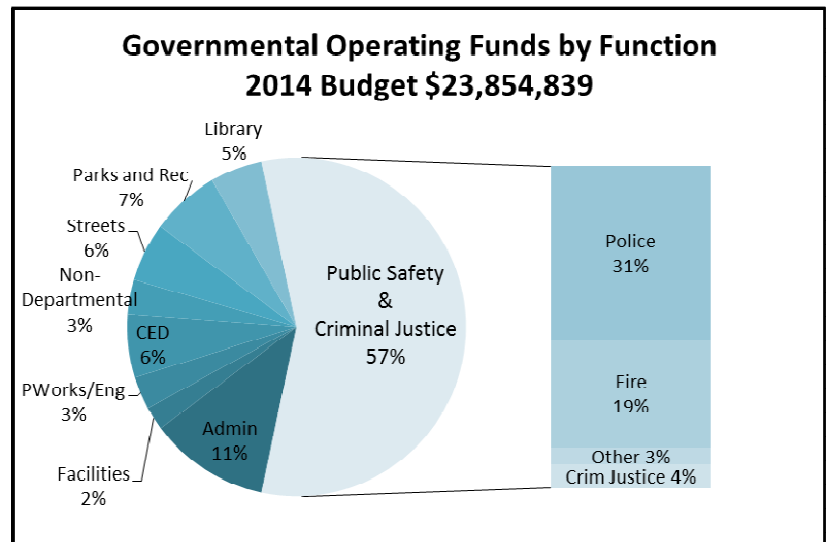
We have a collective responsibility and mission



Local Impact of State Mandates

Public Defense:

The Washington Supreme Court has adopted new Standards for Indigent Defense Services. The new standards will be effective January 1, 2015. The new standards include guidelines for caseload limits (300-400 for misdemeanor cases) and types of cases; administrative costs, limitations on private practice, qualifications of attorneys, appellate representation and use of legal interns.

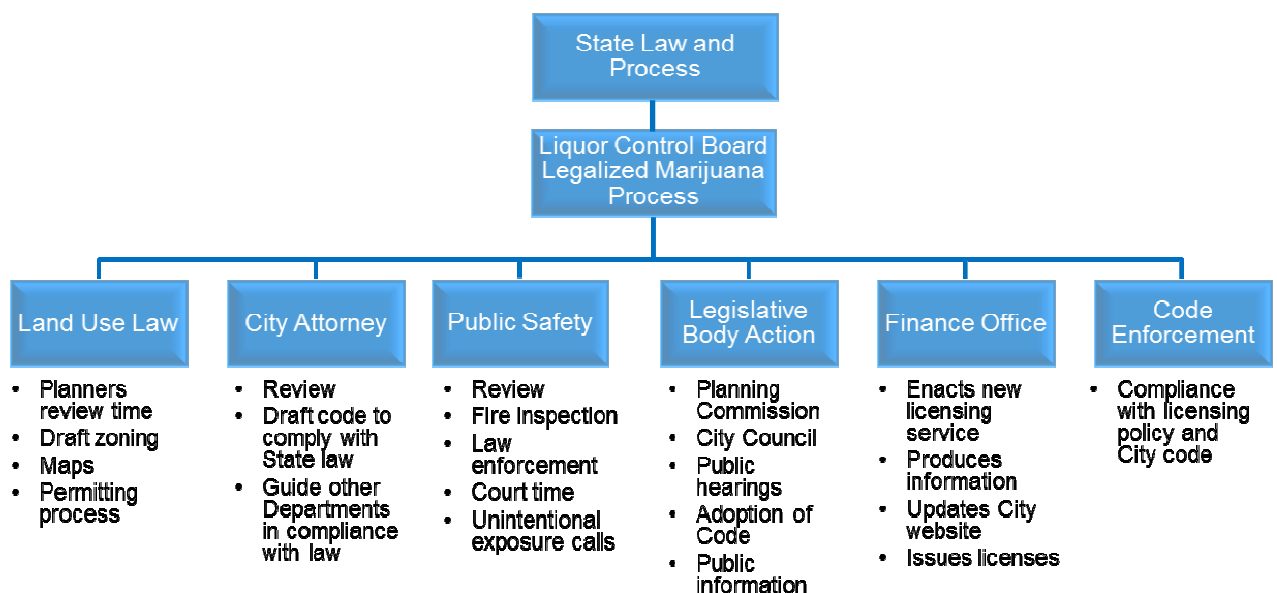


The standards were authored by the Washington State Bar Association's Council on Public Defense to address concerns about the quality of indigent defense services in Washington. The WSBA approved the standards, and recommended adoption to the Supreme Court in July 2011.

The City of Mount Vernon experienced a 186% increase in costs from the 2012 to the 2014 budget. An increase of \$251,656 was requested by the contracted law firm to comply with the Supreme Court ruling. Total expense for the City in 2014 is \$386,680.

Implementation of Marijuana Laws:

The following is a flow chart to illustrate the amount of work that the City of Mount Vernon is undertaking in order to effectively implement the new State legalization of marijuana. From land use review to law enforcement responsibilities, the City is incurring time and expense with no relief from the State Government.



City of Mount Vernon Downtown Flood Protection Project and Riverfront Trail, Phase III



Project Description

The Downtown Mount Vernon Flood Protection and Revitalization Project will protect Mount Vernon's historic downtown from flooding with FEMA certified flood protection and serve to revitalize the historic downtown area. The project will remove the downtown from the FEMA 100-year base flood elevation and will release pent up economic opportunities that are so important to our region. The project is the key component of the comprehensive downtown redevelopment plan that is being used to guide public and private investments over the next 20 years.



Revetment Demolition



Floodwall - Looking North

Final Phase - Update

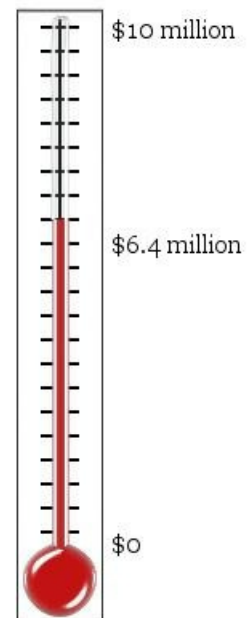
The City is finishing final design and engineering for Phase 3, and has a goal of full funding and ready to bid in July 2014.

Full funding is nearly secured!

- \$5 million - State of Washington capital budget
- \$1.4 million - Skagit County Dike District 3

Other funding opportunities:

- Department of Ecology grant opportunity (May 2014)
- Federal funds opportunity - LWCF, RCO and other formula funds distributed to States (currently)
- Skagit County Economic Development Grant opportunity (early 2015)
- City of Mount Vernon general revenues and internal funding for gap financing - as needed



PHASE 1 - COMPLETE

0.25 MI FLOODWALL AND RIVERWALK TRAIL



PHASE 2 - FULLY FUNDED, UNDER CONSTRUCTION

0.3 MI FLOODWALL AND RIVERWALK PROMENADE, 30,000 SF PLAZA



PHASE 3 - CURRENTLY SEEKING FUNDS

1.2 MI COMBINATION FLOODWALL / LEVEE
0.9 MI TRAIL CONNECTION TO REGIONAL SYSTEM

CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 3 WILL **COMPLETE** THE MOUNT VERNON FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT, THEREBY REMOVING DOWNTOWN FROM THE FEMA 100-YR FLOODPLAIN

MOUNT VERNON
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Floodwall Complete
- Floodwall In Progress
- Floodwall / Levee In Progress

0 500 1,000 Feet



Economic Opportunity Sectors: Jana Hanson, Mayor, Kim Kleppe

The City of Mount Vernon supports a healthy business environment in all sectors including retail, services, industrial, etc. As a strategy for success, the City believes in asset based economic opportunity; focusing on sectors that are already successful in the City and working to retain, revitalize, and recruit in these fields. The sectors listed below reflect what we believe to be a good fit for the community.

- **Technology** – with our fiber infrastructure backbone, Mount Vernon is the perfect place for technology companies to locate and thrive.
 - Technology Summit 2014 - Continue to support vitality of a NextTech Group, fostering collaboration, growth, workforce development by planning and hosting
 - Plan for and expand Wi-Fi services in public places; specifically Skagit Station
 - Market “Intelligent City” concept by supporting Skagit TEDx events and participation in Muninetworks.org
 - Move forward on “meet in the middle” marketing plan: meeting space and support services for technology focused companies in Seattle and Vancouver BC
 - Refine marketing to tech industry
 - ◊ Support entrepreneurs (in association with NW Innovation Resource Center)
- **Health Care – in partnership with Skagit Regional Health**
 - Medical based research – continue a partnership with Skagit Regional Health to develop community based research models
 - Wellness based activity focus – Mayors Wellness Challenge
 - Explore medical device manufacturing opportunities
 - Continue to engage with Skagit Regional Health in integrated health care delivery via Mount Vernon Fire Department paramedics – community para-medicine
- **Innovation Partnership Zone – Agri-Tech, value-added Agriculture & Agriculture Tourism – in partnership with Port of Skagit, WSU Extension, Northwest Agriculture Business Center, Skagit County, EDASC, Skagit Valley Malting, Knutzen Farms, Sakuma Farms, Skagit Valley College**
 - Continue involvement in monthly meetings and support of IPZ initiatives
 - Support Skagit Agricultural Center concept – providing space for wholesale food hub, buckwheat mill, research and conference center, agriculture history museum, farmers memorial, farm to school staging commercial kitchen, fermentation tract lab for SVC, bread lab, etc.
 - Support agricultural summit
 - Support Mount Vernon Restaurant Week – in partnership with Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce - focusing on farm to table experiences
 - Support Farmers Market at temporary location in City employee parking lot
- **Aerospace Supply/Advanced Manufacturing – in partnership with Port of Skagit**
 - Support of workforce development, expansion and diversification
 - Identify possible spec building opportunities

Fiber Optic Master Planning: Kim Kleppe, Doug Nathe, Esco Bell, Jana Hanson

The City of Mount Vernon owns fiber optic infrastructure that has the capacity to provide the foundation for business and local economic growth. The Fiber Network will provide the foundation for broadband Internet access, voice over IP, interactive video, medical imaging, Application Service Provider (ASP) services, Cloud computing and server farm growth.

- Establish relationships with Sedro Woolley and Anacortes for possible fiber expansion
- Define overall operations structure and needed FTE in 2015
- Continue with Ford Foundation group – national conversation on broadband, pursue grant opportunities for public computing space

Infrastructure: Esco Bell & Public Works Department Managers, Larry Otos

The City of Mount Vernon is poised to accommodate economic growth with well-planned infrastructure. Funding is prioritized to maintain existing infrastructure.

- **Transportation – traffic flow optimization project**
 - College Way widening under I-5 – secure funding, continue supporting design, partner with WSDOT. Complete preparations to be “shovel ready” in 2014.
- **Facilities** – overall strategy to maintain facilities (Rick Prosser)
- **Public restrooms**
 - Design, construct
 - ◇ Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architect – Design Committee involved
 - ◇ Construct and project to open early 2014
- **Review 2000 feasibility study for relocation of City Shop**, review conceptual needs for future growth and expansion, consolidation & discuss with City Council

Waterfront Revitalization & Flood Control: Jana Hanson, Esco Bell, Larry Otos, Alicia Huschka, Mayor Boudreau

The Downtown Mount Vernon Flood Protection and Revitalization Project will protect Mount Vernon's historic downtown from flooding with FEMA certified flood protection and serve to revitalize the historic downtown area. We believe this project will release pent up economic opportunities that are so important to our community and region.

- **Complete Construction Phase II** (September 2014)
- **Phase III**
 - Move toward “shovel ready” (property acquisition, final design, secure funding, certification)
 - Begin construction
- **Future Downtown Parking Garage:** after Phase 3 funding is secured – begin to finalize a site, begin conceptual design & financial plan

Regulatory Framework: All pod members

Ongoing advocacy is needed to express the needs of the City of Mount Vernon, provide the most streamlined process to work through regulations.

- **Marijuana legalization implementation**
 - Printed materials
 - Training for staff – business licensing, building permits, enforcement
- **Advocacy to State/Fed**
 - Lobby for restoration of shared revenues
 - Relief of unfunded mandates (e.g. storm water, public defense)

- **Updated Sign Code** – worked through process with Planning Commission – will take before Council for adoption
- **Street Trees** - Ordinance update, maintenance plan, implementation of maintenance from the Federal Treasury program & other possible development incentives
- **Financial Incentives Plan - New Market Tax Credit** – Plan for administration of anticipated successful application for tax credits from the Federal Treasury program & other possible development incentives

Communication & Collaboration: All pod members

We fulfill our Mission and Vision by working to promote cooperation with our neighbors.

- **Downtown Association** – continue to strengthen collaboration and relationships with this organization – complete aesthetics map and responsibilities list
- **Communications plan** – Mayor has authored a communications plan, outlining the areas that we can use to relay information to both internal and external customers. Distribute, train, and set up communications representatives from all Departments
 - Designate 2nd PIO for emergency management
 - Front line employees – ongoing training and support
- **Utilize utility bill inserts** - quarterly
- **Community Survey** – use SurveyMonkey web service

First Impressions: Mayor, Public Works, City Work Program, Jana Hanson

An attractive environment influences human behavior, including investment, tourism, and community pride. The City of Mount Vernon will concentrate on our First Impressions program to ensure we are projecting the best possible image of the City.

- **High visibility areas** –Parks and Public Works complete a public spaces book with photos and specific measurements and needs for each space. Develop landscape “color spots” listing and prioritization
- **Printed material** – review our printed material for accuracy and style
- **TV10** – utilize more! Special productions highlighting the Waterfront Project, and Mayors ‘Around Town’ show
- **City Entrances Project** – Mayors to collaborate with Arts Commission to create plan that will enhance our City entrances with public art